

Appln No. 10/606,165

Amdt date July 21, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spring clip connector assembly comprising:

a faceplate comprising a front facing surface and a rear facing surface and [[with]] an opening through the faceplate, and

a spring clip connector including a housing having a front, facing wall with an opening for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab located in the housing, the movable tab having a handle portion for an operator to move the tab and a contact portion [[and]] a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening in the front facing wall, and a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position, the front facing wall and the handle portion of the tab configured to be inserted through the opening of the faceplate;

wherein one of the housing and the rear facing surface of the faceplate and the housing includes a resilient member and the other of the housing and the rear facing surface of the faceplate and the housing includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the front facing wall and the handle portion of the

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tab housing through the opening of the faceplate in a direction from the rear facing surface of the faceplate to the front facing surface of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the front facing wall and the handle portion of the tab back through housing from the opening of the faceplate to form a snap lock connection, and

wherein the tab is movable between a [[the]] closed position such that [[a]] the contact portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front facing wall against the contact and an open position such that the contact portion of the tab is farther away from the contact than in the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab toward the closed position.

2. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the faceplate has two screw holes.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the mounting surface includes a top mounting surface and a bottom mounting surface on the faceplate.

5. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the resilient member is a cantilever latch on the housing.

6-9 (Cancelled)

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10. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the contact partially blocks the opening in the front wall.

11. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the housing has a single opening.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the front wall has two openings.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the housing includes the resilient member and the faceplate includes the mounting surface.

16. (Original) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the tab partially blocks the opening in the front wall.

17. (Currently Amended) A spring clip connector assembly comprising:

a faceplate having ~~at least two openings~~ an opening,
a ~~first~~ spring clip connector located in a ~~first~~ of the ~~at least two openings~~ in opening of the faceplate, the spring clip connector comprising

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a housing having a front wall with an opening for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab located in the housing, and a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall, and a spring engaging the tab, and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab not engaging the faceplate, to bias the tab to a closed position

wherein ~~one of the faceplate and the housing includes a resilient member and the other of the faceplate and the housing~~—includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the housing from the opening of the faceplate to form a snap lock connection, and

wherein the tab is movable between the closed position such that a portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall against the contact and an open position such that the portion of the tab is farther away from the contact than in the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab toward the closed position, and

~~— a second spring clip connector located in a second of the at least two openings in the faceplate comprising~~

~~— a housing having a front wall with an opening for receiving a wire therethrough, a movable tab located in the housing, and a conductor secured to the housing and having a contact positioned to engage a wire inserted through the opening~~

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in the front wall, and a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position

— wherein one of the faceplate and the housing includes a resilient member and the other of the faceplate and the housing includes a mounting surface, the resilient member movable between a first position that permits insertion of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and a second position that engages the at least one mounting surface and blocks removal of the housing from the opening of the faceplate to form a snap lock connection, and

— wherein the tab is movable between the closed position such that a portion of the tab is adjacent to the contact to secure a wire inserted through the opening in the front wall against the contact and an open position such that the portion of the tab is farther away from the contact than in the closed position to release the wire, the spring biasing the tab towards the closed position.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a spring clip connector to a faceplate having at least one opening, a bottom mounting structure and a top mounting surface, the spring clip connector comprising

a housing having first and second two spaced-apart side walls that are parallel and spaced apart and a front wall between the first and second side walls, the front wall having a single an opening for receiving a wire therethrough,

a bottom wall and a top wall that are spaced apart,

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a ~~cantilever~~ latch piece for engaging the faceplate attached to the top wall including at least one ramp piece having a vertical bearing surface that secures the connector to a faceplate,

~~at least one ramp piece attached to the bottom wall having a vertical bearing surface that secures the connector to the faceplate,~~

a conductor secured to the housing and ~~having a leading edge positioned~~ adjacent to the opening in the front wall,

a tab movably coupled to the housing having a closed position wherein a ledge of the tab is adjacent to the leading edge of the conductor and having an open position wherein the ledge is farther away from the leading edge of the conductor than in the closed position, and

a spring engaging the tab ~~to bias the tab to a closed position and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position, the method comprising:~~

~~angling the connector into inserting the front wall of the housing through the opening of the faceplate and moving the front wall of the housing to a first position relative to the faceplate, the front wall in the first position being spaced apart from the faceplate by a first distance, and~~

~~moving the front wall of the housing to a second position relative to the faceplate to engage the latch piece with the faceplate, the front wall in the second position being spaced apart from the faceplate by a second distance;~~

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wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance. so that the at least one ramp piece attached to the bottom wall slides over the bottom mounting structure, rotating the connector so that the top mounting surface deflects the cantilever latch, allowing the at least one ramp piece attached to the cantilever latch to slide under the top mounting surface and engage the vertical bearing surface to form a snap lock connection.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the tab is configured to be smaller than insertable into the housing through a front opening of the housing adjacent the front wall of the housing such that the tab is insertable through the front opening.

22. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing includes a resilient finger tab to engage and secure the conductor to the housing.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the conductor includes an upwardly extending rear wall and a bottom wall extending forward from a bottom edge of the rear wall.

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25. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 24, wherein the housing includes a resilient finger tab to engage the upwardly extending rear wall and secure the conductor to the housing.

26. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 1, wherein the spring is a coil spring.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) The spring clip connector assembly of claim 17, wherein the face plate comprises a second opening and a second spring clip connector located in the second opening.

29. (New) The spring clip connector assembly of claim 17, further comprising a second opening on the front wall.

30. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising a second opening on the front wall.

31. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising a second tab located in the housing.